

Steadfast: A Study of Colossians

What the Spirit of God Speaks to the Faithful

Pastor Craig Sweeney | October 16, 2022

Thread: By the will of God, YOU are chosen to be steadfast.

Key Text: Colossians 1:2–14 NLT

“We are writing to God’s holy people in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. May God our Father give you grace and peace. We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God’s people...”

Colossians 1:2 – 4 NLT

- This is a about IDENTITY
 - The kind of person who LOVES GOD
 - Embracing ALL that this relationship affords me.
 - The kind of person who LOVES PEOPLE
 - “know you are mine by your love for one another...”
John 13:35
- I’m not the kind of person who _____ .
 - Jesus is your way back.

“...which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.” Colossians 1:5 NLT

- Identity has everything to do with where this STORY of humanity is going.
- Identity is such a crucial question.
- It starts with Whose we are.
 - The heart of God revealed (Bible) guides us.

1. What does the Spirit of God say to the FAITHFUL?

“For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes. There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God’s promise to Abraham belongs to you.”

Galatians 3:26 – 29 NLT

- Fearlessly find your identity in Jesus.

2. What does the Spirit of God say to the faithful?

“This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God’s wonderful grace.” Colossians 1:6 NLT

- You are not alone

“You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ’s faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you. So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you.” Colossians 1:7 – 9 NLT

The Steadfast prays:

- “We ask God to give you complete knowledge of His will.”
- “...and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit.”
- “All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.
 - This is about capacity.

3. What does the Spirit of God say to the FAITHFUL?

“We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power...” Colossians 1:11 NLT

- Remain in me and I will expand your capacity for more

“Grace and peace to you from God our Father.” Colossians 1:2 NIV

- The steadfast are fed by God.

Challenge:

-Chair Time challenge (3-5 days a week for 15 minutes or more.) Please refer to the card in the planner.

-Read through Colossians for the months of October and November.

-Listen and exercise your faith to become more steadfast in Christ.



**DEVOTIONALS
& MESSAGE
RESOURCES**

Steadfast

Fall 2022 | Week 5

Message Date 10/16/2022

MY STORY



- 1) If you could design the perfect cookie, what would it be?
- 2) What's the best piece of advice you've ever been given?

QUICK REVIEW



- 3) What caught your attention from Sunday's message?

DIGGING DEEPER / TAKING IT HOME



In this series of Steadfast we have been unpacking a pattern of discipleship and growth found in the Bible. It is a cycle we go through repeatedly with different things in our faith. Sometimes these things are quick, like at the moment of salvation a person can move through these five steps rapidly, with other things it may take time, but it can help us understand places we feel stuck, and it can help us understand what's next and areas we need to delve into deeper. This week we will be unpacking the third step using these same passages we have been talking about.

First, a quick refresher of where we have come from. The first week we discussed the idea of following and how it is concerning our eyes and our focus. Last week we talked about trust and how this idea encompasses our mind. Trust is a choice, and it needs to come before our emotions. Our feelings cannot drive our decision making. We also talked about how we are told to renew our minds, found in Romans 12:2. Lastly, the trust aspect of this pattern encompasses our knowledge of the word, theology, and apologetics (the evidence of our beliefs). Trust is all about the mind but closely linked to following and our focus.

This week we are unpacking the third step which is love. Love is about our hearts and the seat of our emotions. This is also the place in discipleship where healing takes place. Groups like Keys to Freedom and Soul Care are helpful here.

1 John 4:19 (ESV) teaches us that "We love because he first loved us."

- 4) Where does this love relationship begin and why is it important to understand the origin of it?
- 5) Have you ever felt unloved by God? Of the two areas we have discussed over the last two weeks what could you do differently to help you shift that emotion?

Colossians 1:15-23 (ESV)

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

- 6) What does this passage teach us about God's love?
- 7) How does knowing God's love help us remain steadfast?
- 8) In verses 18 and 19, how does knowing that the fullness of God dwells in Jesus encourage you?
- 9) What does Paul tell them to continue in so they can remain stable and steadfast? How does the pattern of discipleship we have talked about so far help us do this?
- 10) In thinking about follow, trust, and love: What do you need to do this week to experience God's love at a deeper level?

CHAIR TIME TOOLS



Over the remaining 3 weeks of our study, I am going to challenge you to read or listen to the whole book of Colossians every day. I will be asking you to think and pray about different questions. We are also being challenged to pray for our church and for the churches of our region.

- 1) Where do you read about God's love in the book of Colossians?
- 2) How does the book of Colossians help you know God's love more deeply?

Prayer points:

- 1) Jesus, strengthen me as I seek to be steadfast, following You into every area of my life.
- 2) Jesus, strengthen Heights Church and all churches in the Sacramento region as we emerge from the pandemic season.
- 3) Jesus, may Heights Church and churches of the Sacramento region make incredible impact for Your kingdom in our generation.